

Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report
April 17, 2006

WORLDWIDE UPDATE

Human disease: The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed 194 human cases of H5N1 influenza, including 109 deaths (56.2%). Since our last report, one additional case has been confirmed in each of Azerbaijan and Indonesia.

The Ministry of Health in Egypt has confirmed its 12th case. The WHO continues to report 4 confirmed cases from Egypt, as the additional cases have not yet been confirmed by a WHO laboratory. The 12th case reported by Egypt is an 18 year old female who had direct contact with diseased birds. She is hospitalized in stable condition. Of the 12 Egyptian cases, 3 have died, four are still in the hospital, and 5 have fully recovered.

Animal disease: The World Organization for Animal Health has received reports of birds testing positive for the H5N1 influenza virus from the following countries since April 7: Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Poland, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- On April 10, Dr. Kaplowitz discussed Pandemic Influenza with the Virginia Military Advisory Council. Members were very interested in planning for a possible influenza pandemic and wish to participate in the fall pandemic influenza exercise. They will be working with, Bob Mauskopf, VDH EP&R State Coordinator, on exercise planning.
- On April 7, VDH Chaired a PanFlu Exercise Planning Conference at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Offices in DC. Multi-discipline attendees (Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Health, etc.) from DC, MD and VA participated. Milestones for the Fall Exercise that have been suggested by the exercise team were discussed.
- VDH is coordinating PanFlu planning in the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council which includes public health officials from Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- On April 13, VDH conducted a video teleconference (addressing development of local and regional PanFlu summits) with Local Health Districts and VDH Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) Teams.
- VDH is making wide distribution of its pandemic flu video. Receiving requests for continuous loop DVDs to show in waiting rooms/pharmacies.
- Responding to multiple requests for speakers at public forums and media interviews, statewide.
- Health Districts continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Offices

- **Eastern Region**
 - Interview with Business Insider on what business can do to prepare for a pandemic, expected to be published this week
 - Regional team assisting developing three regional pandemic conferences: Southside, Hampton and Eastern Shore.
 - Visited the migrant worker camps on the Eastern Shore last week to prepare for the needs of migrant workers in the event of a pandemic.
 - Working on a pandemic training for all the eastern region hospital PIOs. Developing a contact list for hospital PIOs so they can communicate with Eastern Region PIO/health department and each other.
 - Scheduled a roundtable discussion for the management staff and General Manager of the local ABC affiliate about pandemic flu with health department staff including the regional Doc, Epi and PR.
- **Central Region**
 - Distributing VDH pandemic flu video. Receiving requests for continuous loop DVDs to show in waiting rooms/pharmacies. Henrico County Schools plans to make it available to students via streaming video on their internal network. Working with regional training staff to fill requests. DVD is being distributed to: Department of Social Services, Ukrop's pharmacies, Churches, VDH Division of Vital Records, Henrico County Schools, three area public access television stations, Chesterfield Fire Department, Virginia Pharmacy Association, Senior Connections, Family Practice Doctors, Chamber of Commerce, and Business Networking Groups.
 - Pandemic flu presentations: Dinwiddie County officials, churches.
 - Presented Central Region Pandemic Flu Public Outreach Program proposal to area health directors. The public outreach program was developed by the Regional Team to engage community interest and participation in pandemic influenza activities and preparedness within the Central Region. Approaches include:
 - Newsletters and Targeted Campaigns
 - Lobby Displays
 - Public Scoping Meetings
 - Children's Educational Program
 - Speakers' Bureau
 - Information Fairs
 - Media Briefings and Coverage
- **Northern Region**
 - Focusing on multi discipline, cross regional and National Capitol Region (NCR) coordination.
 - Scheduled a June 13 forum for PIOs in the National Capital Region, covering various public messaging aspects of the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) and the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).
 - Fairfax County will host a town meeting on pandemic flu on Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. Questions will be accepted from those in attendance, by phone and by e-mail. The program will be broadcast live on cable and will be rebroadcast on later dates.

- NOVA PR has been offered an eight minute monthly segment on the new Washington Post radio station. These segments will be used to educate the public on important issues, including pandemic flu preparedness and planning.
- **Northwest**
 - Hospital Coordinating Council met at Western State Hospital. Issues addressed included Mass Fatality Management, PanFlu facts, projections for critical capacity, and Preparedness Efforts and the path forward. The meeting was held in the new Mobile Hospital Facility jointly purchased recently by the Northwest and Near Southwest Hospital Coordinating Council, and was attended by approximately 75 representatives from hospitals, fire, police, EMS and others. Efforts continue to complete a First Responder Needs Assessment.
 - Isolation and Quarantine Training is scheduled for Blue Ridge Community College

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Loudoun**
 - Coordinated with Fairfax HD to schedule a meeting with Lockheed Martin (3500 Employees) to address business prep planning.
 - Met with Head, Economic Development Agency, Fire Chief Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority / CDC (Dulles) Quarantine Officer to discuss County PanFlu planning efforts.
 - Scheduled briefings for County Board of Supervisors, County Department Heads, and Leesburg Town Council.
 - Developing Communications Plan with VDH Regional PIO and County, Hospital, Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management PIOs. Developing County PanFlu website.
 - Coordinated establishment of PanFlu Task Force and Planning Team.
 - Taped TV programs for County Public Station and Cable Channel.
 - Briefed County ALERT Team and conducted short Tabletop PanFlu Exercise.
 - Conducted Initial Planning Conference for County PanFlu Functional Exercise.
 - Held Leesburg PanFlu Town Meeting.
 - Affected Hospital coordination to include Grand Rounds and meeting with medical Staff, INOVA Loudoun.
 - Accomplished robust outreach with private physicians.
 - Pre-scripted Public Health developed outreach messages and multiple-length formal briefs for future presentation.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Briefed Frederick County Board of Supervisors concerning PanFlu planning and District's proposals to use supplemental funding for community outreach and education. The Board expressed support. The Health District will be asked to follow up with the appropriate Board Committee.
- **Piedmont**
 - Met with Longwood Panflu Planning Team.
 - Met with Charlotte County Superintendent of Schools and delegate of the County Administrator's Office to begin discussions on PanFlu planning.
 - Commenced coordination with Prince Edward Local Emergency Planning Commission.
- **Rapahanock-Rapidan**
 - Personalized Physician letters on PanFlu preparedness sent out along with the CDC medical provider checklist and an article on vaccine prioritization.

- Made PanFlu presentation to the Northwest Hospital Group.
- **Three Rivers**
 - Briefed PanFlu to a leadership group convened by the Mayor of WestPoint. This multidisciplinary group has assumed the function of a Pan flu coordinating committee.
 - Briefed hospital staff and community members at the Walter Reed Riverside Hospital in Gloucester.
 - Presented an overview of PanFlu planning to Walter Reed Riverside Hospital Physicians.
 - Met with the Chair and Treasurer of the Mid-Tidewater medical society and discussed the local physicians' needs in PanFlu planning, communication, education, PPE, operations etc.
 - The Three Rivers Health District Pandemic task force met and started plans for two summits, one in the Northern Neck and one for the Middle Peninsula planned for sometime in June.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Developing a jointly sponsored and designed Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Flu Summit. Focus will be on the Tri-Cities local and regional stakeholders, and will reach out and welcome partners and colleagues from North Carolina, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The Health Departments are in the early planning stages right now, with a meeting of our TN/VA planners for each of the sponsors to be held at the Washington Co. (VA) HD on April 26th.
 - Director provided the Cumberland Plateau Health District Pandemic Influenza unscientific survey results to the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council that includes public health officials from Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Distributed PanFlu information packets to all physicians at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County (Martinsville) and Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital (Rocky Mount).
 - Presented a CME program to Medical Staff at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County.
 - Gathered names of physician/individuals interested in joining a Community Pandemic Influenza Task Force/Planning Committee and will arrange an introductory meeting.
- **Roanoke**
 - Scheduled a presentation for staff at Kuumba Community Health and Wellness Center.
 - Coordinated PanFlu planning with Carilion Health System, Roanoke Academy of Medicine, Alleghany Regional Hospital, Medical Executive Committee and Lewis-Gale Hospital.